Information Packet for the 2009-2010 NFL Topic:

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase social services for persons living in poverty in the United States.

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**[](http://www.kwu.edu/athletics/information.html)**

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Resolution: Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase social services for persons living in poverty in the United States.

Definitions:

(All sources from Dictionary.com, last accessed July 10th, 2009, unless otherwise noted)

**The-**

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| **1.** | (used, esp. before a noun, with a specifying or particularizing effect, as opposed to the indefinite or generalizing force of the indefinite article *a* or *an*): *the book you gave me; Come into the house.* |

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| **2.** | (used to mark a proper noun, natural phenomenon, ship, building, time, point of the compass, branch of endeavor, or field of study as something well-known or unique): *the sun; the Alps; the* Queen Elizabeth; *the past; the West.* |

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| **3.** | (used with or as part of a title): *the Duke of Wellington; the Reverend John Smith.* |

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| **4.** | (used to mark a noun as indicating the best-known, most approved, most important, most satisfying, etc.): *the skiing center of the U.S.; If you're going to work hard, now is the time.* |

**United-**

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| **1.** | made into or caused to act as a single entity: *a united front.* |

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| **2.** | formed or produced by the uniting of things or persons: *a united effort.* |

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| 3. | agreed; in harmony  **States-**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **1.** | (*sometimes initial capital letter*http://cache.lexico.com/dictionary/graphics/luna/thinsp.png) any of the bodies politic which together make up a federal union, as in the United States of America. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **2.** | the body politic as organized for civil rule and government (distinguished from [church](http://dictionary.reference.com/search?q=church&db=luna) ). |   **Federal-**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **1.** | pertaining to or of the nature of a union of states under a central government distinct from the individual governments of the separate states: *the federal government of the U.S.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **2.** | of, pertaining to, or noting such a central government: *federal offices.* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **3.** | (*initial capital letter*http://cache.lexico.com/dictionary/graphics/luna/thinsp.png) *U.S. History*.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **a.** | of or pertaining to the Federalists or to the Federalist party. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **b.** | supporting the principles of the Federalist party. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **c.** | (in the Civil War) pertaining to or supporting the Union government. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **d.** | relating to or adhering to the support of the Constitution. | |   **Government-**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **1.** | the political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens, or inhabitants of communities, societies, and states; direction of the affairs of a state, community, etc.; political administration: *Government is necessary to the existence of civilized society.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **2.** | the form or system of rule by which a state, community, etc., is governed: *monarchical government; episcopal government.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **3.** | the governing body of persons in a state, community, etc.; administration. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **4.** | a branch or service of the supreme authority of a state or nation, taken as representing the whole: *a dam built by the government.* |   **USFG-**  **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT-** is divided into three main branches: the legislative, the judicial, and the executive. These branches have the same basic shape and perform the same basic roles defined for them when the Constitution was written in 1787. Congress, the legislative branch, is divided into two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. Representation in the chambers is carried out by the formula set forth in 1787: by population in the House and by state in the Senate. The president is the elected chief executive officer and is charged with faithful execution of the laws. The Supreme Court and all other federal courts have the judicial authority vested in them by the Constitution and by subsequent legislation. A system of checks and balances prevents power from being concentrated in any one of the three branches. Power is divided on a territorial basis between the states and national government.  (provided by Encyclopedia.com, last accessed july 5th, 2009)  **Should-**  **1**—used in auxiliary function to express condition <if he *should* leave his father, his father would die — Genesis 44:22(Revised Standard Version)>  **2**—used in auxiliary function to express obligation, propriety, or expediency <'tis commanded I *should* do so — Shakespeare><this is as it *should* be — H. L. Savage><you *should* brush your teeth after each meal>  **3**—used in auxiliary function to express futurity from a point of view in the past <realized that she *should* have to do most of her farm work before sunrise — Ellen Glasgow>  **4**—used in auxiliary function to express what is probable or expected <with an early start, they *should* be here by noon>  **5**—used in auxiliary function to express a request in a polite manner or to soften direct statement <I *should* suggest that a guide…is the first essential — L. D. Reddick>  (from merriam-webster.com, last accessed july 3rd, 2009)  **Substantially-**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **1.** | of ample or considerable amount, quantity, size, etc.: *a substantial sum of money.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **2.** | of a corporeal or material nature; tangible; real. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **3.** | of solid character or quality; firm, stout, or strong: *a substantial physique.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **4.** | basic or essential; fundamental: *two stories in substantial agreement.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **5.** | wealthy or influential: *one of the substantial men of the town.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **6.** | of real worth, value, or effect: *substantial reasons.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **7.** | pertaining to the substance, matter, or material of a thing. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **8.** | of or pertaining to the essence of a thing; essential, material, or important. |   **Increase-**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **1.** | to make greater, as in number, size, strength, or quality; augment; add to: *to increase taxes.* |   ***–noun***   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **2.** | growth or augmentation in numbers, size, strength, quality, etc.: *the increase of crime.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **3.** | the act or process of increasing. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **4.** | that by which something is increased. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **5.** | the result of increasing. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **6.** | produce of the earth. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **7.** | product; profit; interest. |   **Social-**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **1.** | of or pertaining to the life, welfare, and relations of human beings in a community: *social problems.* |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **2.** | | noting or pertaining to activities designed to remedy or alleviate certain unfavorable conditions of life in a community, esp. among the poor. | | **3.** | | of or pertaining to human society, esp. as a body divided into classes according to status: *social rank.* | | |   **Services-**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **1.** | an act of helpful activity; help; aid: *to do someone a service.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **2.** | the supplying or supplier of utilities or commodities, as water, electricity, or gas, required or demanded by the public. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **3.** | the providing or a provider of accommodation and activities required by the public, as maintenance, repair, etc.: *The manufacturer guarantees service and parts.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **4.** | the organized system of apparatus, appliances, employees, etc., for supplying some accommodation required by the public: *a television repair service.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **5.** | the supplying or a supplier of public communication and transportation: *telephone service; bus service.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **6.** | employment in any duties or work for a person, organization, government, etc. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **7.** | a department of public employment, an administrative division of a government, or the body of public servants in it: *the diplomatic service.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **8.** | the duty or work of public servants. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **9.** | the serving of a sovereign, state, or government in some official capacity. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **10.** | Often, **services.** the performance of any duties or work for another; helpful or professional activity: *medical services.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **11.** | something made or done by a commercial organization for the public benefit and without regard to direct profit: *Certain books are published at a loss as a public service.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **12.** | *Law*. the serving of a process or writ upon a person. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **13.** | to supply with aid, information, or other incidental services. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **14.** | *Finance*. to pay off (a debt) over a period of time, as by meeting periodic interest payments. |   **For-**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **1.** | with the object or purpose of: *to run for exercise.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **2.** | intended to belong to, or be used in connection with: *equipment for the army; a closet for dishes.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **3.** | suiting the purposes or needs of: *medicine for the aged.* |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **4.** | | | in order to obtain, gain, or acquire: *a suit for alimony; to work for wages.* | | **5.** | | | in favor of; on the side of: *to be for honest government* | | | | **6.** | | | with the purpose of reaching: *to start for London.* | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **7.** | contributive to: *for the advantage of everybody.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **8.** | in order to save: *to flee for one's life.* |   **Persons-**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **1.** | a human being, whether man, woman, or child: *The table seats four persons.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **2.** | a human being as distinguished from an animal or a thing. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **3.** | *Philosophy*. a self-conscious or rational being. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **4.** | the body of a living human being, sometimes including the clothes being worn: *He had no money on his person.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **5.** | an individual of distinction or importance. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **6.** | a person not entitled to social recognition or respect. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **7.** | *Law*. a human being **(natural person)** or a group of human beings, a corporation, a partnership, an estate, or other legal entity **(artificial person** or **juristic person)** recognized by law as having rights and duties. |   **Living-**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **1.** | having life; being alive; not dead: *living persons.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **2.** | in actual existence or use; extant: *living languages.* |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **3.** | | active or thriving; vigorous; strong: *a living faith.* | | **4.** | | pertaining to, suitable for, or sufficient for existence or subsistence: *living conditions; a living wage.* | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **5.** | of or pertaining to living persons: *within living memory.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **6.** | lifelike; true to life, as a picture or narrative. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **7.** | in its natural state and place; not uprooted, changed, etc.: *living rock.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **8.** | very; absolute (used as an intensifier): *to scare the living daylights out of someone.* |   **In-**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **1.** | (used to indicate inclusion within space, a place, or limits): *walking in the park.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **2.** | (used to indicate inclusion within something abstract or immaterial): *in politics; in the autumn.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **3.** | (used to indicate inclusion within or occurrence during a period or limit of time): *in ancient times; a task done in ten minutes.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **4.** | (used to indicate limitation or qualification, as of situation, condition, relation, manner, action, etc.): *to speak in a whisper; to be similar in appearance.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **5.** | (used to indicate means): *sketched in ink; spoken in French.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **6.** | (used to indicate motion or direction from outside to a point within) into: *Let's go in the house.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **7.** | (used to indicate transition from one state to another): *to break in half.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **8.** | (used to indicate object or purpose): *speaking in honor of the event.* |   **Poverty-**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **1.** | the state or condition of having little or no money, goods, or means of support; condition of being poor; indigence. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **2.** | deficiency of necessary or desirable ingredients, qualities, etc.: *poverty of the soil.* |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **3.** | scantiness; insufficiency: *Their efforts to stamp out disease were hampered by a poverty of medical supplies.* |   **United States-**  A republic in the N Western Hemisphere comprising 48 conterminous states, the District of Columbia, and Alaska in North America, and Hawaii in the N Pacific. Conterminous United States, 3,022,387 sq. mi. (7,827,982 sq. km); with Alaska and Hawaii, 3,615,122 sq. mi. (9,363,166 sq. km). Capital: Washington, D.C. Abbreviation: U.S., US  **Statistics –**  **Poverty Threshold:**  (sources will be U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) unless otherwise noted) |

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| **Poverty Thresholds for 2008 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Size of family unit** | **Related children under 18 years** | | | | | | | | |
| **None** | **One** | **Two** | **Three** | **Four** | **Five** | **Six** | **Seven** | **8+** |
| One person (unrelated individual) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ..Under 65 years | 11,201 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ..65 years and over | 10,326 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Two people |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Householder under 65 years | 14,417 | 14,840 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Householder 65 years and over | 13,014 | 14,784 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Three people | 16,841 | 17,330 | 17,346 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Four people | 22,207 | 22,570 | 21,834 | 21,910 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Five people | 26,781 | 27,170 | 26,338 | 25,694 | 25,301 |  |  |  |  |
| Six people | 30,803 | 30,925 | 30,288 | 29,677 | 28,769 | 28,230 |  |  |  |
| Seven people | 35,442 | 35,664 | 34,901 | 34,369 | 33,379 | 32,223 | 30,955 |  |  |
| Eight people | 39,640 | 39,990 | 39,270 | 38,639 | 37,744 | 36,608 | 35,426 | 35,125 |  |
| Nine people or more | 47,684 | 47,915 | 47,278 | 46,743 | 45,864 | 44,656 | 43,563 | 43,292 | 41,624 |
| **SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau. | | | | | | | | | |

How Poverty threshold is determined in the United States (via USCB)

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| **Income used to compute  poverty status:** | * Money income   + Includes earnings, unemployment compensation, workers’ compensation, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, public assistance, veterans’ payments, survivor benefits, pension or retirement income, interest, dividends, rents, royalties, income from estates, trusts, educational assistance, alimony, child support, assistance from outside the household, and other miscellaneous sources.   + Noncash benefits (such as food stamps and housing subsidies) do not count.   + Before taxes.   + Excludes capital gains or losses.   + If a person lives with a family, add up the incomeof all family members. (Non-relatives, such as housemates, do not count.) |
| **Measure of need  (poverty thresholds):** | * Poverty thresholds are the dollar amounts used to determine poverty status * Each person or family is assigned one out of 48 possible [poverty thresholds](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/threshld/thresh07.html) * Thresholds vary according to:   + Size of the family   + Ages of the members * The same thresholds are used throughout the United States(do not vary geographically) * Updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). * Although the thresholds in some sense reflect families needs,   + they are intended for use as a statistical yardstick, not as a complete description of what people and families need to live   + many government aid programs use a different poverty measure, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [poverty guidelines](http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/poverty.shtml), or multiples thereof * Poverty thresholds were originally derived in 1963-1964, using:   + U.S. Department of Agriculture food budgets designed for families under economic stress   + Data about what portion of their income families spent on food |
| **Computation:** | * If total family income is less than the threshold appropriate for that family,   + the family is in poverty   + all family members have the same poverty status   + for individuals who do not live with family members,their own income is compared with the appropriate threshold * If total family income equals or is greater than the threshold,the family (or unrelated individual) is not in poverty |
| **Example:** | * Family A has five members: two children, their mother, father, and great-aunt.   + Their threshold was $26,338 dollars in 2008. (See poverty thresholds for 2008)   + Suppose the members' incomes in 2008 were:  |  |  | | --- | --- | | Mother: | $10,000 | | Father: | 7,000 | | Great-aunt: | 10,000 | | First child: | 0 | | Second child: | 0 | |  |  | | Total family income: | $27,000 |  * Compare total family income with their family's threshold.   Income / Threshold = $27,000 / $26,338 = 1.02   * Since their income was greater than their threshold, Family A is not "in poverty" according to the official definition. * The income divided by the threshold is called the **Ratio of Income to Poverty**.   + Family A's ratio of income to poverty was 1.06. * The difference in dollars between family income and the family's poverty threshold is called the **Income Deficit** (for families in poverty) or **Income Surplus** (for families above poverty)-Family A’s income surplus was $662 (or $27,000 - $26,338) |
| **People whose poverty  status cannot  be determined:** | * Unrelated individuals under age 15 (such as foster children)   + income questions are asked of people age 15 and older   + if someone is under age 15 and not living with a family member, we do not know their income   + since we cannot determine their poverty status, they are excluded from the “poverty universe” (table totals) * People in:   + institutional group quarters (such as prisons or nursing homes)   + college dormitories   + military barracks   + living situations without conventional housing (and who are not in shelters) |
| **Authority behind official poverty measure:** | * The official measure of poverty was established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in [Statistical Policy Directive 14](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/povmeas/ombdir14.html). * To be used by federal agencies in their statistical work. * Government aid programs do not have to use the official poverty measure as eligibility criteria.   + Many government aid programs use a different poverty measure, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [poverty guidelines](http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/poverty.shtml), or variants thereof   + Each aid program may define eligibility differently * Official poverty data come from the Current Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC), formerly called the Annual Demographic Supplement or simply the "March Supplement." |

Poverty Guidelines

(All information on topic provided by Department of Health and Human Services (hhs.gov, last accessed July 1st, 2009), unless otherwise noted.)

The **poverty guidelines** are the other version of the federal poverty measure. They are issued each year in the *Federal Register* by the **Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS).  The guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for **administrative** purposes — for instance, determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs.  The [*Federal Register* notice of the 2009 poverty guidelines](http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/09fedreg.shtml) is available.

The poverty guidelines are sometimes loosely referred to as the “federal poverty level” (FPL), but that phrase is ambiguous and should be avoided, especially in situations (e.g., legislative or administrative) where precision is important.

The separate poverty guidelines for Alaska and Hawaii reflect Office of Economic Opportunity administrative practice beginning in the 1966-1970 period.  Note that the poverty thresholds — the original version of the poverty measure — have never had separate figures for Alaska and Hawaii.  The poverty guidelines are not defined for Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau. In cases in which a Federal program using the poverty guidelines serves any of those jurisdictions, the Federal office which administers the program is responsible for deciding whether to use the contiguous-states-and-D.C. guidelines for those jurisdictions or to follow some other procedure.

The poverty guidelines apply to both aged and non-aged units.  The guidelines have never had an aged/non-aged distinction; only the Census Bureau (statistical) poverty thresholds have separate figures for aged and non-aged one-person and two-person units.

Programs using the guidelines (or percentage multiples of the guidelines — for instance, 125 percent or 185 percent of the guidelines) in determining eligibility include Head Start, the Food Stamp Program, the National School Lunch Program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.  Note that in general, cash public assistance programs (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Security Income) do NOT use the poverty guidelines in determining eligibility.  The Earned Income Tax Credit program also does NOT use the poverty guidelines to determine eligibility.

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| **The 2009 Poverty Guidelines for the  48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia** | |
| **Persons in family** | **Poverty guideline** |
| 1 | $10,830 |
| 2 | 14,570 |
| 3 | 18,310 |
| 4 | 22,050 |
| 5 | 25,790 |
| 6 | 29,530 |
| 7 | 33,270 |
| 8 | 37,010 |
| For families with more than 8 persons, add $3,740 for each additional person. | |

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| **2009 Poverty Guidelines for Alaska** | |
| **Persons in family** | **Poverty guideline** |
| 1 | $13,530 |
| 2 | 18,210 |
| 3 | 22,890 |
| 4 | 27,570 |
| 5 | 32,250 |
| 6 | 36,930 |
| 7 | 41,610 |
| 8 | 46,290 |
| For families with more than 8 persons, add $4,680 for each additional person. | |

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| **2009 Poverty Guidelines for Hawaii** | |
| **Persons in family** | **Poverty guideline** |
| 1 | $12,460 |
| 2 | 16,760 |
| 3 | 21,060 |
| 4 | 25,360 |
| 5 | 29,660 |
| 6 | 33,960 |
| 7 | 38,260 |
| 8 | 42,560 |
| For families with more than 8 persons, add $4,300 for each additional person. | |

**SOURCE:**  *Federal Register*, Vol. 74, No. 14, January 23, 2009, pp. 4199–4201

Resources for further study

## <http://www.census.gov//did/www/saipe/index.html> - Model-based Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for School Districts, Counties, and States (provided by USCB)

## <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/poverty.html> - USCB poverty website , has multiple sources for poverty-related topics, along with external links.

## <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty_in_the_United_States> - Yes, it is Wikipedia, but has over forty outside links to material found in text. Also, not a bad read for Analytic purposes.

## <http://www.nflonline.org/StudentResources/PolicyDebate> - Look to the topic overview by Stefan Bauschard and the Poverty Topic Paper, presented to the NFHS, for good info, and also a good read for those novices coming in this year!

## [http://www.npc.umich.edu/poverty/](http://www.npc.umich.edu/poverty/%20) - National Poverty Center- U. of Michigan. Good resource for study during the summer.

Creator’s note

July 10th, 2009

Ladies and gentleman:

We live in an amazing period of human history, and often we don’t think of such things as poverty. It just comes to us as another news story, or person in the street. However, this year, you have the chance to see that part of American society, in its full glory. Do not revile it, but embrace it as it is part of the America that our forefathers would be proud of. Also, don’t just get involved in this topic just for the sake of debate, but, as the saying goes, “put your back into it.” See poverty for yourself, with your own eyes, and do something to help those who are less fortunate than yourself, and make yourself a better person in the process. I wish you the best of luck this year, and, for those seniors who read this, go out swinging!

Sincerely,

Andrew Moffitt II –Kansas Wesleyan University Debate & Forensics